

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of organizing and effecting a dynamic workflow management system using a computer network that permits computer access to a server capable of containing a centralized database pertaining to said dynamic workflow management system, said method comprising:

identifying core functions;

producing information pertaining to said core functions, said information including plural individual workflow descriptions, each said individual workflow description describing a said core function and establishing at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description;

establishing core function units, said core function units at least substantially representing said core functions;

uploading to said server for storage in said centralized database a coherent presentation essentially integrating said information pertaining to said core functions, said coherent presentation encompassing a multiplicity of tasks, said coherent presentation representing an operational plan for performing all of said tasks, the performance of each said task commencing in a said core function unit, at least some said tasks being performed in plural said core function units based on said at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow

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description, said coherent presentation being computer-accessible by said core function units;
[[and]]

performing at least one said task, said performance of at least one said task including use of
said coherent presentation; and

updating said coherent presentation at least once, each said updated coherent presentation being computer-accessible by said core function units, each said updating including uploading at least a portion of a said individual workflow description describing a said core function so as to render at least one change to the preceding said individual workflow description describing the same said core function, said at least one change including modification with respect to said at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description.

Claim 2 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying core functions includes identifying external core functions selected from the group consisting of life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management.

Claim 3 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said identified core functions are external core functions including life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management.

Claim 4 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying core functions includes identifying internal core functions selected from the group consisting of facility planning, budget strategy and contracting requirements.

Claim 5 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying core functions includes identifying internal core functions selected from the group consisting of facilities, budget and contracts.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein said identified core functions are internal external core functions including facilities, budget and contracts.

Claim 7 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said identifying core functions includes dividing said core functions into external core functions and internal core functions.

Claim 8 (original): A method according to claim 7, wherein said identified external core functions are selected from the group consisting of life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management.

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Claim 9 (original): A method according to claim 7, wherein said identified internal core functions are selected from the group consisting of facilities, budget and contracts.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein each said individual workflow description includes narrative description, procedural description and flow diagrammatic description.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said coherent presentation includes a manual, wherein said manual includes narrative description, procedural description and flow diagrammatic description for each core function.

Claim 12 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing core function units includes establishing external core function units selected from the group consisting of life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management.

Claim 13 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing core function units includes establishing internal core functions selected from the group consisting of facilities, budget and contracts.

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Claim 14 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing core function units includes:

establishing external core function units selected from the group consisting of life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management; and

establishing internal core functions selected from the group consisting of facilities, budget and contracts.

Claim 15 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing core function units includes:

establishing external core function units including life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management; and

establishing internal core functions including facilities, budget and contracts.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, said method further comprising instituting communications among said core function units, said instituting communications including instituting at least one type of communications selected from the group consisting of telephone, telefax, paper correspondence and electronic mail.

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Claim 17 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, said method further comprising distributing hard copies of said coherent presentation among said core function units.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said producing information pertaining to said core functions includes establishing plural teams, each said team being charged with submitting a section of said information that characterizes a different said core function.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method for defining and executing the flow of management operations of an organization, said method making use of a central computer and plural workstation computers connected to said central computer, said method comprising:

establishing plural organizational units, each said organizational unit availing itself of at least one said workstation computer, said establishing including proposing initial core functions and assembling informational segments, each said informational segment describing the functional flow associated with a said initial core function, the functional flow associated with each said initial core function being characterized by at least one nexus between said functional flow and the functional flow associated with at least one other said initial core function, said establishing plural organizational units further including designating refined core functions, said refined core functions at least substantially corresponding to said initial core functions, each said organizational unit performing a said refined core function;

formulating a manual that is at least substantially arranged in accordance with said

organizational units and said refined core functions respectively performed by said organizational units, said manual covering at least substantially all of the undertakings of said organization, said manual at least substantially incorporating said informational segments so as to prescribe said flow of management operations both intrarelationally within each said organizational unit and interrelationally between said organizational units, the functional flow associated with each said refined core function being characterized by at least one nexus between said functional flow and the functional flow associated with at least one other said refined core function, said manual prescribing action to be taken for carrying out each said undertaking, each said undertaking requiring action to be taken by at least one said organizational unit, at least some said undertakings requiring action to be taken by at least two said organizational units, wherein each said undertaking that requires action to be taken by at least two said organizational units is carried out in accordance with at least one said nexus between two said functional flows associated with said refined core functions respectively performed by said at least two said organizational units;

storing said manual in said central computer for computer access by said organizational units, said manual being stored in a form electronically modifiable by each said organizational unit;
[[and]]

carrying out at least one said undertaking, at least one said undertaking being carried out so that action is taken by at least two said organizational units; and

maintaining currency of said manual as stored in said central computer, said maintaining currency including electronically modifying of said manual, by at least one said organizational unit, with respect to at least one nexus between the respective functional flows associated with at least two said refined core functions.

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Claim 20 (previously presented): A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, said method further comprising disseminating hard copies of said manual to said organizational units.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, wherein said establishing plural organizational units includes establishing external core function units, said external core function units performing respective external core functions, said external core function units including life cycle management unit, acquisition unit, research and development unit, test and evaluation unit, in-service engineering unit, integrated logistic support unit, program management unit and platform management unit.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, wherein said establishing plural organizational units includes establishing internal core function units, said internal core function units performing respective internal core functions, said internal core function units including facilities unit, budget unit and contracts unit.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, wherein said establishing plural organizational units includes:

establishing external core function units, said external core function units performing

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respective external core functions, said external core function units including life cycle management unit, acquisition unit, research and development unit, test and evaluation unit, in-service engineering unit, integrated logistic support unit, program management unit and platform management unit; and

establishing internal core function units, said internal core function units performing respective internal core functions, said internal core function units including facilities unit, budget unit and contracts unit.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, said method further comprising enabling communication among said organizational units in furtherance of said flow of management operations, wherein said enabling communication includes instituting at least two communication means selected from the group consisting of telephone, telefax, correspondence and e-mail.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, said maintaining currency including formulating a scheduling policy for continually improving said flow of management operations, said formulating a scheduling policy including prescribing the periodic updating of said manual.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 25, wherein said periodic updating of said manual includes said electronically modifying of said

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manual.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, wherein said electronically modifying of said manual includes adding at least one nexus between the respective functional flows associated with at least two said refined core functions.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A method for defining and executing the flow as recited in claim 19, wherein said electronically modifying of said manual includes removing at least one nexus between the respective functional flows associated with at least two said refined core functions.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A computer-networked system for performing workflow management, said system comprising a plurality of clients and a server, said server being configured to maintain a centralized database relating to said workflow management that is computer-accessible by said clients, said server being further configured to receive, in said centralized database, information uploaded by any of said clients, said uploaded information constituting a comprehensive plan prescribing the performance of all of the pieces of work encompassed by said workflow, said comprehensive plan admitting of performance of a said piece of work in at least substantially any portion of said comprehensive plan, wherein said uploaded information includes:

identification of a plurality of core functions;

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a plurality of individual workflow descriptions each pertaining to describing a said core functional unit function and establishing at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description, each said piece of work being performed in accordance with at least one said individual workflow description, at least some said pieces of work being performed in accordance with at least two said individual workflow descriptions and at least one said linkage corresponding to said at least two said individual workflow descriptions;

~~a plurality of core functional units, said plurality of core function units at least substantially representing said plurality of core functions;~~

~~a compilation of said plurality of individual workflow descriptions, said compilation being for utilization by said plurality of core functional units; and~~

revisionary input, said revisionary input revising said comprehensive plan compilation, each said revisionary input including at least a portion of a said individual workflow description so as to render at least one revision to the preceding said individual workflow description pertaining to describing the same said core functional unit function, each said revisionary input revising said comprehensive plan compendium with respect to said at least one linkage of a said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description.

Claim 30 (original): A system for performing workflow management as recited in claim 29, wherein said core functional units comprise external core functional units including a life cycle management unit, an acquisition unit, a research and development unit, a test and evaluation unit,

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an in-service engineering unit, an integrated logistic support unit, a program management unit and a platform management unit.

Claim 31 (original): A system for performing workflow management as recited in claim 29, wherein said core functional units comprise internal core functional units including a facilities unit, a budget unit and a contracts unit.

Claim 32 (original): A system for performing workflow management as recited in claim 29, wherein said core functional units comprise:

external core functional units including a life cycle management unit, an acquisition unit, a research and development unit, a test and evaluation unit, an in-service engineering unit, an integrated logistic support unit, a program management unit and a platform management unit; and

internal core functional units including a facilities unit, a budget unit and a contracts unit.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A system for performing workflow management as recited in claim 29, said system further comprising computer-based communication means and non-computer-based communication means, wherein said computer-based communication means includes electronic mail, and wherein said non-computer-based communication means includes telephone, facsimile transmission and written correspondence.